



Left: The entire Blanchet team poses with the 3A girls basketball state championship trophy. Right: Sophomore Ana Coronado shoots a free throw in the final game against Dayton.



Submitted

First Team



Submitted

Willamette Valley Christian School senior Katie Talon, from left, junior Emma Kinler, and freshman Julie Dieker, all of Keizer, were selected First Team all-league. Willamette Valley Christian finished the season 16-10, losing in the second round of the 1A girls basketball state tournament.

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"I just started crying," Salang said. "I was so happy for my team and my coaches. The moment was so real and intense. It just took me over. It

was just unbelievable. It almost seemed like a happy ending in a movie."

"It was amazing," Ostby added. "We've been working so many years to get to this point. It was just fun to share it with all of them."

Bailey, who's been coached by her dad since she began

playing basketball in the third grade at KYBA, said her favorite moment was watching him cut down the net.

"He's had so many nights where he'd stay up all night doing scouting reports, watching film on the other teams," Bailey said. "It made me feel super happy to see that all of his hard work had paid off. My dad was just such a great influence on us and he taught us not only about basketball but we're a family and we have to watch out for each other on and off the court."

After a snow day, the team,

which also includes Sophia Poole, Wendy Liao, Emily Collier, Najma Suri, Sierra Archer and Katey Moore, were honored at a school assembly.

"That's when it really sank in that we had won state," Salang said. "The whole weekend, I couldn't believe that it happened. When we got back to school and they had our bracket and they had our pictures and our trophy, it just seemed so real. It finally sank in that we had won state."

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That leadership includes going hard at every practice.

"On the field I'm always giving it my all," McCoy said. "I'm always coming out sweaty, every single practice. I encourage everyone else to push me, too. If they slack off then that means I slack off and I can't get better. We help each other and we all get better at the same time."

Bowlby expects junior Eddie McGrath to lead the defense after a strong performance to open the season.

"He came up really big and had some great steals, transitioned the ball really well," Bowlby said.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary junior Marcus McCoy is a three-year starter for the Celtics at goalkeeper.

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